

Response to Office Action
Dated January 23, 2004

Appln. No. 10/003,901

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April 20, 2004

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2004. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-23 are pending. Applicant acknowledges, with appreciation, that Claims 1-15 and 20-23 are allowable. Furthermore, Claims 18 and 19 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the recitations of their base claims and any intervening claims upon which they depend.

Summary of Rejections

Claims 16 and 17 are rejected as anticipated by published International Patent Application WO 99/40875 to Koch et al.

Summary of Claim Amendments

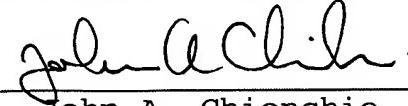
Applicant has amended Claim 16 to include the subject matter of Claims 17 and 18, canceling these two claims.

Applicant has further amended Claim 19 to depend upon Claim 16.

Applicant believes that these amendments place the application in condition for allowance as indicated by the Examiner in the present Action. An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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